

from our viewpoint...

## ‘Tea Party’ offers some new faces

Commentators decry the success of the “tea party” movement across the country, predicting that it will mean defeat for the Republican Party in some races this fall and doom for the country if the movement ever succeeds.

Tea-party candidates are portrayed as right-wing zealots unfit for office. The people drawing the portraits are, however, mostly liberals in both parties who’re on the losing side of this argument. Of course they think these people are dangerous.

They may be right about some of the candidates. Dr. Rand Paul, who won the GOP Senate primary in Kentucky, came across as an undisciplined thinker. (He’s the son of Texas Rep. Ron Paul, a long-time libertarian who ran for the Republican presidential nomination, but the father has a more sober image.)

Most of these candidates have in common a decided bias against the “tax and spend” philosophy so prevalent among both parties in Washington today. Most exhibit a refreshing lack of social-conservative baggage: abortion, religion, prayer, immigration and other “hot button” issues don’t mean as much to them, though we suppose you could find tea partiers who talk about every issue.

But the genesis of the movement is in its name, taken from the historic Boston Tea Party, a colonial anti-tax movement.

Tea partiers and tea-party candidates worry more about big, growing government in Washington and the statehouse than they do anything else. They rail at the burden of heavy taxation and big spending. And they see high taxes and big spending not as fiscal policy or a tool for re-election, but as just plain wrong.

Of course, the spenders see this as dangerous. They love spending and fear restraint.

Perhaps it is simplistic to think you could just go to Washington and vote against high taxes and big deficits. Maybe even tea-party candidates will want to spend money to get re-elected, once they’ve seen the mountaintop.

But for now, several of these “outsider” candidates are riding high: Sharron Angle in Nevada, Christine O’Donnell in Delaware, Joe Miller from Salina in Alaska, Christine O’Donnell in Delaware, Ron Johnson in Wisconsin, Ken Buck in Colorado.

Many are inexperienced, say things they shouldn’t, making themselves easy targets for party regulars, who are only too happy to torpedo them. But if they are a danger to anyone, it’s the leadership-bound regular Republicans, especially the incumbents.

In Alaska, Sen. Lisa Murkowski – after losing to Mr. Miller in the primary – promised to run as a write-in candidate next month, perhaps giving the Democrats an edge. It comes down to that: hang on, undercut the winner, let the Democrats win, rather than lose control.

How those who won the primaries will fare in the fall against Democrats remains to be seen. Undoubtedly, they’ll be smeared as wackos who would ruin the republic.

But with the unbelievable level of spending today, with the threat of higher taxes and more deficits, with the culture of incumbents buying their way to lifetime seats, what’s left to ruin?

Some of the tea party candidates doubtless deserve to lose. Some won’t. Their popularity already has pushed the rest of their party to the right. Come January, it’ll be interesting to see who’s organizing the House – and who’s sworn in for the Senate.

The country does not need any more nut cases and wackos in Washington; enough of those already. But we do need more people who value liberty and Constitutional restraint, honesty and integrity over re-election at all costs. – *Steve Haynes*

## The Goodland Star-News

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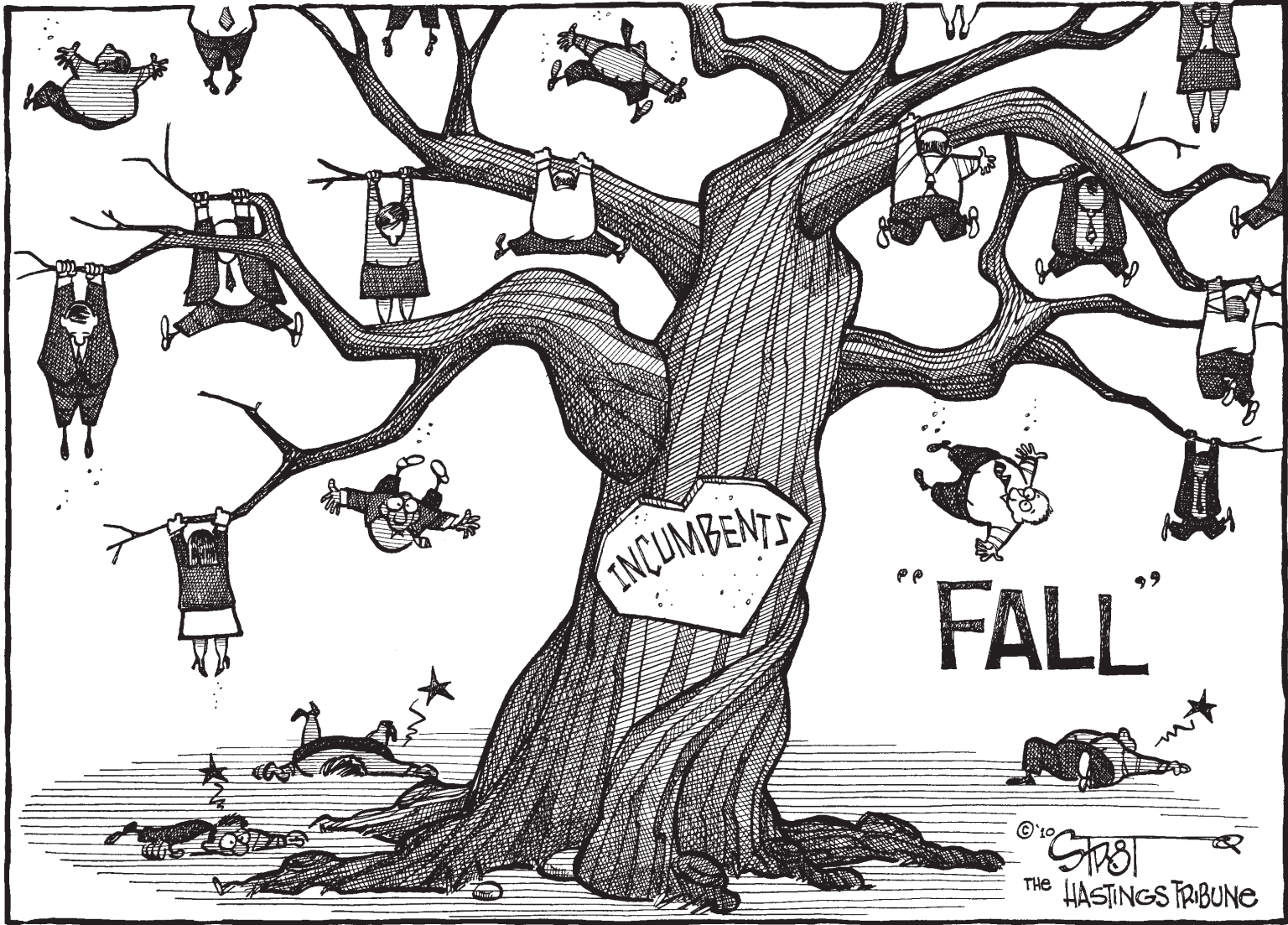
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## Silent key report from K0DWZ

A Silent Key report is given when a ham operator dies, such as my dad, Fred M. Betz, Jr., or the recent death of Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who was a long time ham operator.

There are lots of good memories of growing up with my father in Lamar, Colo., and through all the political campaigns and years of going with him to Colorado Buffalo football games.

I learned the newspaper business from two great men my father and my grandfather. Between them and a few others I don’t have room to name I gained a knowledge and appreciation for this business, and try to use what they taught me each time I prepare to write or publish an edition of The Goodland Star-News.

We buried dad on Friday in Lamar near my brother Greg who died in 1974. It was comforting to have family and friends remember the great things dad did for people through his more than 83 years of life. The past few years have been hard as he slowly succumbed to the ravages of Alzheimer’s. I last saw him in March. He did sort of know who I was, and read the Northwest Tech shirt I was wearing. His condition worsened in the past months, and we expected he would not make it to Christmas. You expect the call, but it does not make it any easier. The call came on Saturday, Sept. 25, as I was taking photos at the Flatlander Fall Classic car races.

It was quite a shock having met with the House family on Friday about the death of their son, Andrew in that pickup accident earlier that week.



**tom  
betz**

• t, t & o

One aspect of my dad’s long life I enjoyed was his involvement with ham radio. I remember as a young boy watching dad building his first ham radio a Heathkit DX100 – out in our garage at 404 S. Sixth in Lamar. I remember learning him use his call sign K0DWZ – K0 “Democrat With Zeal” was how he said it phonetically.

As I grew up my brother and sisters had fun getting on the air with dad and talking to his friends especially Don Dolsen and Russ Widlund who dad had fun with on the air. I do not remember Dolsen’s call sign, but it had something to do with being an darn good undertaker.

I do remember Uncle Russ’s as it was K0JEI, better known as K0 “Jake Easy Item.”

My father continued his ham radio hobby when he retired and moved to Divide, Colo. He got his son-in-law Chet Seybold of Lakewood, Colo., K8OQNV, involved and they would talk from Denver to Divide on a regular basis.

When I was in the U.S. Navy and stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1970 I had a weekly phone call and with the help of a ham at the base radio station. I talked to my parents and family via ham radio through the MARS network. I would check out the ham station on

base, KG4AN, and once in a while they could connect with my dad as well.

About 18 months ago my wife, Ava, and I got involved with a ham radio class in Goodland, and both took our tests in April of 2009 in Colby. Ava, passed the Technician test and has the call sign KD0HDX. I passed both the technician test and the General Class test that was the same level as my dad.

I was looking for a special call sign, and was surprised to find that Russ’ call sign was open so I applied to the FCC and was granted permission to use K0JEI as my call sign.

The fun I remember my father having with his ham friends is something I have been able to reconnect with, and I am using a couple of his old radios to reach out to the world on the air.

I remember going south to Two Buttes in June every year for field day with my father, and have participated in field day exercises in Goodland out at the Tourist Information Center.

I felt proud to be able to tell Dad, when I last saw him, that I was enjoying being on the air, and had connected with a few of his old ham friends plus a lot of new ones I have met on the airwaves.

He may be a silent key today, but the memories of those many days of being with him and Russ and Don and the others he knew will be with me and I can remember those every time I put out a CQ on the air.

Good-bye Dad, the K0DWZ will continue to be “Democrat With Zeal.”

## Voting a privilege, right

To the Editor:

A man named Caesar Rodney lay very ill with cancer on his face and a high fever. He was told the vote would be taken tomorrow around noon.

It was evening and a cold rainy, lightening storm raged outside. He drug himself out of bed, mounted his horse and rode through the night and the next morning nearly 80 miles on horseback all while fighting the unrelenting storm.

He arrived just before the vote was taken. He had to be carried in to the voting hall To cast his VOTE. By one vote the group decided to risk their lives, their fortunes, and their families to fight for YOUR RIGHT to an independent nation.

This is a true story of one of our hero Founding Fathers. Caesar Rodney did lose everything he had and gave up any chance of medical help in England when he voted for our independence, but he and many others gave everything so that we might have this GREAT NATION OF FREEDOM.

Don’t let anyone tell you ONE VOTE doesn’t count or let a little weather keep you from the polls.

If you are not registered to VOTE please do so now. (Deadline Monday, Oct. 18) It is a responsibility we have, given to us by the lives



from our  
readers

• to the editor

of many of our countrymen.

As a tribute to their lives it is our right to be informed and vote. If you would like a voter guide which will tell you how your political leaders have voted on issues critical to your faith, family and freedom go to Kansans for Pro Life Political Action Committee at [www.voteprolife.net](http://www.voteprolife.net) or Christian Coalition of America at [www.cc.org](http://www.cc.org).

Remember you can vote early or send for an absentee ballot. This election may very well decide the direction of our country for the foreseeable future.

Let’s use our Freedom to fight for our Freedom before we lose our Freedom.

Be sure you exercise your CONSTITUTIONAL right to vote.

Thankful for the privilege to vote,  
Patty Thompson  
Goodland

To the Editor:  
Where have all the volunteers gone?

## where to write

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